

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY GMAC BOWL CHAMPIONS

(Mr. RAHALL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, last night's GMAC Bowl in Mobile, Alabama could have carried a warning from the Surgeon General: Not recommended for those with heart conditions. In the end, with all due respect to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES), the best team won.

In only its fifth year, the Marshall University Thundering Herd stampeded over East Carolina. Although the Herd was down 38-8 at half-time, the enthusiasm of Marshall's fans did not waiver.

But Marshall rallied in the third quarter and charged on in the fourth. When time expired, the game was tied at 51. The noble opponents battled through two overtimes before Byron Leftwich connected on a pass to Josh Davis, ending the contest and securing the laurels of victory for our Thundering Herd. As the headline in the Huntington Herald Dispatch reads this morning, "Miracle in Mobile."

I congratulate Marshall's tenacious players and coaches, and applaud its faithful fans. Few football programs have suffered as severe a loss, struggled so valiantly, and risen to such heights, all in the course of 30 years.

During half time, Coach Bobby Pruett, who hails from my hometown of Beckley, West Virginia, talked with his team of belief and faith. It is a lesson we should all remember, not only in times of need, but in our everyday lives.

□ 1200

RURAL EQUITY PAYMENT INDEX REFORM ACT

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I advise Members that today I am introducing the Rural Equity Payment Index Reform Act, a bill that will address the difference in reimbursement levels between urban and rural physicians and other health professionals. The formulas presently used by the Medicare program to reimburse these health professionals for beneficiaries' medical care do not accurately measure the cost of providing services; and, consequently, Medicare currently pays rural providers less than it should for equal work.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, "physician work" is the amount of time, skill and intensity a physician puts into patients' visits. Physicians and other health care providers in rural areas put in as much or even more time, skill and intensity into a patient visit as do physicians in urban areas. Yet, rural physicians are paid less for their work.

This is not only unfair, it is discriminatory.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to consider cosponsoring this legislation. We do not take it away from the urban health care providers. We do adjust upward the formula for rural areas.

TRIBUTE TO MELVIN SMITH

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Melvin Smith of Ellicott City, Maryland, who is retiring after more than 33 years of distinguished service with the United Parcel Service, the UPS. Mel was born on September 30, 1946, in Los Angeles, California. He attended Fremont High School and Los Angeles City College, and served in the Vietnam War.

He began his 33-year UPS career in 1968 as a package car driver in southern California. In 1976, Mel began his management career when he was promoted to full-time supervisor in the feeder transportation department. In 1981, Mel was promoted to hub division manager, and in 1993 he was promoted to district manager. Before Mr. Smith's retirement, he served as the chief operating officer of the UPS Atlanta district serving Maryland, Delaware, and parts of West Virginia.

Mel has always been active in numerous charities. In Maryland, Mr. Smith has served in a leadership capacity for the United Way, the Baltimore Urban League, and the Baltimore Chapter of the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mel Smith, his wife Debra Ann, and his entire family. Mel, enjoy your retirement.

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to speak out of order for 5 minutes and to revise and extend her remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DAVID E. BONIOR, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today, and I do not want to use the word "last," but just in terms of chronology, today is the last day that our great minority whip, Democratic whip of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) will serve in that capacity while the House is in session.

We will benefit for years to come from his service, 10 years, an historic 10 years as Democratic whip of the House, 4 years as chief deputy whip before that. That incredible experience is marked not only by longevity, but by the quality of his service. Leaders for all time to come will benefit from the example that he has set as a leader. Working families into perpetuity in our country have benefited and will continue to benefit from his championing of their issues. They have no

greater champion. Working families in America have no greater champion than DAVID BONIOR. He has been a model leader. He has been a tireless worker for workers. We all owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude. I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. PELOSI. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I join in this tribute to a career of remarkable service as a Member of this Congress, as our chief deputy whip, and as our whip for the last 10 years to my friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), who will be stepping down from that position of whip and will be going on to run a successful race for Michigan. I have supported him in everything he has ever run for, and I plan to continue to support him. I have never been more proud of a public servant.

I have to say to the Members of this House and to the public that may be listening, this is an individual that all of us can be proud that his district sent him to Washington because he never, never once veered from the track of taking care of the needs of his district. And as the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) has pointed out, on behalf of working families, he made it part of our agenda, he made it part of our lexicon, he made it part of our principles and part of our morality. He has done it in almost every meeting that I have been in. He has done it on our motions to recommit.

We are not always given the best forum here to pursue these issues, but he has made sure that every opportunity we had, we did do it. Why? Because of his strong convictions about a notion of economic and social justice in this country, that those individuals who get up and go to work every day and work hard, that they ought to have the rewards to be able to support their families. If they fall on economic hard times, there ought to be an income supplement program so they do not have to lose their car or house or take their children out of school.

Mr. Speaker, many people we are seeing in this recession have worked 15, 20, 30 years, and now they find themselves unemployed. He has been a champion.

I had the pleasure of traveling with DAVID to Central America in pursuit of social and economic justice in Central America at a time when the violence was unbelievable. Many people forget what was taking place in Central America, the murder of American citizens, of religious individuals, of the archbishop, of so many people who were simply trying to get along, trying to live a life in Central America. He spent an incredible amount of his energy trying to bring the peace process around. We were eventually successful in Nicaragua, in El Salvador, and Guatemala trying to stop the violence. The

gentlewoman has been deeply involved in those issues with us.

Mr. Speaker, we should all aspire to be such a champion of economic and social justice.

DAVID, I am very, very proud to have served in this Congress with you. I am very proud to be your friend, and I know that you are going to do great things for the people of Michigan and for the people of this Nation.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Ms. PELOSI. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, this is not a eulogy. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is alive and well, I am happy to say. But I must take this opportunity as we end this session of Congress and his career as the Democratic whip, recognizing he will continue to serve his district and our country in Congress next year. I want to say that knowing the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) personally and professionally has been one of the tremendous rewards of all of my years in public service, whether that be in Texas or here in the Nation's Capital.

Many Americans may not know the name DAVID BONIOR, but millions of decent working families across America are living a better life today, making higher wages. Even those living at the bottom of the economic rung on minimum wage, have a higher minimum wage today than they would have had had it not been for one person's passionate commitment to working families and their opportunity to have a decent life for their children, and that is the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR).

DAVID BONIOR, I am convinced, will be the next Governor of Michigan. While I do not know all of the voters of that great State, I have to believe that they recognize integrity and decency when they see it.

What I have seen for 5 years working under the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) as the chief deputy whip is the epitome of decency and integrity. For anyone who might be cynical about our democratic process in America, I wish they could have seen up close and firsthand what I have seen in the person I call my friend, DAVID BONIOR.

His accomplishments are too numerous to mention in this brief time today, but they are well earned. They are significant. But I would conclude my remarks with two thoughts. It is not the tremendous accomplishments of making the difference for working families of America, and there is a list of specific achievements that I will ultimately respect the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for, and although they are tremendously important, it is the kind of person that he is, the kind of human being he is, so honest, treating everyone as we would want others to treat us.

I would just conclude with this thought. Winston Churchill, during

some of the darkest hours of World War II, spoke to the British people and the world when he said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." By that high standard, DAVID BONIOR has lived and will continue to live an extraordinarily successful life. His passion, his decency and his integrity will be a model for future public servants for generations to come, and I am honored to be his friend and his colleague.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, in honoring the service of DAVID BONIOR, his vision, his knowledge, his effectiveness, his energy, his integrity, his experience, indeed the people of Michigan are very blessed to have him as their future Governor.

I also want to acknowledge his very experienced staff who have served this Congress so well, the staff of DAVID BONIOR. I know that others will speak today about DAVID and his staff, but I wanted to be sure to acknowledge their considerable contributions to this body as well.

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to speak out of order for 5 minutes and to revise and extend her remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE DAVID E. BONIOR, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I come this afternoon to say thank you to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR). Ten years ago I first came to this institution, and at this very place I was given the honor of seconding the nomination of DAVID BONIOR for whip. I have served with him for 10 years. I have known him for 14 years. I learned from him as a mentor. I learned the skills of serving as a whip with him. I learned the battle for economic and social justice in Central America with him.

He comes from the earth, he comes from a family of working-class Americans, the way so many of us come to this institution. And he came here and he accomplished good public policy for the great people of this Nation. And in all that time, and in all that time, he never faltered. He never was afraid to stand up. He has never been afraid to championing the cause of the people of this country. And because of that tenacity and that brutal effectiveness, he has changed the lives of people in this country.

No one has fought harder for worker standards, for minimum wage, for those things that help people to live their lives because he understands their lives. He is a peaceful veteran, and, like myself, a Catholic who cares about life in its broader sense. His sense of integrity, his sense of honesty and his soul will be missed in this institution.

He will go on to do wonderful things, and we are all here for you, DAVID. We will stand with you and do what you want and try to help you be the next Governor of Michigan. To you and to

Judy and to your family, we wish you the best.

There have been folks who have tried to demonize DAVID BONIOR, but his genuineness comes through, and they cannot do it. His gentle strength will prevail. It prevailed in what he did before he came here, it prevailed here, and it will prevail as he serves as Governor of the State of Michigan. God bless DAVID BONIOR, and I thank the gentleman for all that he has given to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

□ 1215

Ms. WOOLSEY. DAVID, what am I going to do without you? Good grief. I have been here 8 years. After we lost the House in 1994, dithering, all of us, frustrated, all of us, I got a call from one of my sons. All of my kids tell me what I should be doing here because they are smart and they care. My son said, "Mother, I hope you're listening to DAVE BONIOR." I said, "Well, yeah, what are you saying?" And he said, "He's the only one that's saying anything."

So I started listening more closely, because I knew the background and what you brought to us all along, but I listened to your message, and it became very important to me to get on your team, to be part of it. Thank you for putting me on the whip organization so I can do what I do best, which is rally and push and nudge and count. It has been a pleasure working for you.

Thank you very much. I have learned more from you than you will ever know.

My nice constituents worry about me here because they think it is kind of a mean place and a lot of them will say, "How can you stand to work with all those people?" And I say, "Uh-uh, I get to work with DAVE BONIOR." They go, oh, yeah, there are good people there too; among others, of course.

Thank you again. I miss you already. Our loss is Michigan's gain for sure.

Ms. DELAURO. I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with deep regret that DAVID BONIOR is leaving this institution. I arrived here about 9 years ago. It was in a special election. But I think of all the people I have met, DAVID BONIOR was the kindest person I met. What I have learned over the years of working here is, this is a tough institution; and to survive and to be into leadership, you have got to have tough skin, but you have also got to have a kind and soft heart.

The wonderful thing about DAVID BONIOR is how much he gives of himself to everybody else's problem. He will come to your district. And when he sees a wrong, he is out there trying to right it, whether it is in the fields of farm workers in California, whether it is in the stockyards, wherever it may be in the United States, where men and women are suffering or are not having